AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic device for the spine, comprising:

a plate assembly having an adjustable length and defining integral means for coupling the plate assembly on vertebral bone;

at least one bone fastener for coupling the plate assembly to vertebral bone using the integral means for coupling the plate assembly;

means for adjusting the length of the plate assembly;

means for locking the length of the plate assembly, wherein the means for locking the length of the plate assembly comprises a threaded bore substantially perpendicular to the plate assembly and a set screw passing between the means for adjusting the length of the plate assembly and into the threaded bore; and

means for inserting the at least one bone fastener into the vertebral bone polyaxially at any of a plurality of selectable angles of relative to the plate assembly.

21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 20, further comprising:

means for locking the bone fastener at a selectable angle relative to the plate assembly.

22. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the means for locking the bone fastener include at least one through-hole in the plate assembly and a coupling element insertable into the at least one through-hole and rotationally coupling a head of the bone fastener.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 25, further comprising a coupling element insertable into the at least one through-hole and rotationally coupling a head of the bone fastener.

25. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic device for the spine comprising:

a first longitudinal plate having an end defined by at least two longitudinal prongs adjacent to one another;

a second longitudinal plate having a longitudinal bore, the longitudinal bore adapted to receive the prongs for longitudinal translation therein through a plurality of positions;

a lock assembly for locking the prongs within the longitudinal bore at one of the plurality of positions, wherein the lock assembly comprises a threaded bore defined by and between the prongs and substantially perpendicular to the first longitudinal plate and a set screw passing between the prongs and into the threaded bore, such that the two prongs move away transversely from one another and press against an inner surface of the longitudinal bore of the second longitudinal plate;

at least one through-hole in at least one of the first and second plates; and

at least one bone fastener for coupling the plate assembly to vertebral bone through the at least one through-hole at any of a plurality of variable angles relative to the plate assembly.